(c) No step to overcome delay due to late/non-operation of trains/fights can be taken as they are beyond the control of the department.

Shri Simranjit Singh Mann's offer to send Sikhs to the Gulf war

920. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to stats:

(a) whether Shri Simranjit Singh Mann has publicly offered to send lakhs of sikhs to join the U.S. ranks in the battle-front in the Gulf; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(b) whether Government are aware that a memorandum was given by Shri Mann to U.S. Ambassador in this regard; if so, what is Government's reaction in regard to these activities of Shri Mann?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MNIISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). Government have seen Press reports to this effect. It would not be appropriate for Government to comment on the private opinions of an individual.

Deputy Prime Minister's Visit to Norway by a Chartered Flight

921. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SOM PAL:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Prime Minister was offered commercial flight for his re cent trip to Norway; if so, what are the reasons for which Government preferred to send him by chartered flight in spite of the campaign to cut down wasteful expenses;

(b) what was the cost of the Deputy Prime Minister and his party's tour to Noray; and

(c) what was the number of persons who accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister as members of his team and who were the members of his team?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIIAY SINGH) : (a) Keeping in view the importance of the occasion and the possible uncertainties of commercial flight schedules a decision was taken to charter a special flight to enable the Deputy Prime Minister to attend the funeral of the late Norwegian King.

(b) these details are being obtained.

(c) 13, as indicated below:

1. Shri Jagdeep Dhankar, Member of Parliament.
2. Shri K. K. Deepak, OSD, a Govt, employee.
3. Shri Subhash Chander, 1st PA to DPM—a Govt, employee.
4. Shri Rajgopal, Security Officer, Air India.
5. Shri M. S. Sokhanda, PA to DPM— a Govt, employee.
6. Shri Pradeep Singh Sihag, PA to DPM— a Govt, employee.
7. Shri Shamsher Singh, PSO—a Govt, employee.
8. Shri Surender Jain, a progressive farmer.
9. Shri H. K. Shangi, Ex-Chairman, Haryana Industrial Development Corporation Adviser, Town/Country Planning.
10. Shri Prabhat Dabral, Doordarshan— a Govt, employee.
11. Shri J. N. Mathur, Doordarshan— Govt, employee
12. Shri Gopal Gupta, Doordarshan—a Govt, employee.
13. Shri Arif S. Khan, Director (EW), Ministry of External Affairs.